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**ABSTRACT**

An external programmer module adapted for physical and electrical connection to existing clinical monitoring and/or therapy instrumentation is provided for achieving bi-directional communication with an implantable medical device (IMD). The programmer module includes telemetry circuitry necessary for communicating with an IMD and a connector that allows electrical connection to a clinical instrument such as a patient monitor or external defibrillator. The connector is adapted to connect the programmer module with the power supply of the clinical instrument and may connect the programmer module with one or more features or subsystems of the clinical instrument, such as, a central processing system, a printer, an electronic storage medium, a user interface, a communications interface, or graphical display. The programmer module is enclosed in a housing adapted for physical mating with the clinical instrument, either on the outside of the clinical instrument or within an open bay designed to receive auxiliary devices.